



PATENT

Applicant: Blodgett, Jr.
Serial No.: 10/766,267
Filed: January 27, 2004
Title: **VEHICLE SLIDE OUT
FRAMEWORK**

Examiner: Pedder, Dennis H.
Group Art Unit: 3612
Confirmation No.: 3429
Atty. Docket No.: 18393-512

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DECLARATION OF LARRY REVELINO UNDER 37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.131

I, Larry Revelino, state as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 years and am competent to make this Declaration. This Declaration is made upon personal knowledge setting forth facts I believe to be true.
2. This Declaration supplements the Declaration of Raymond Blodgett, Jr. dated January 19, 2005 and the Supplemental Declaration of Raymond Blodgett, Jr. dated July 27, 2005 which were previously provided in the above-referenced application.
3. I was an employee of RBW Industries, Inc., ("RBW"), the assignee of the above-referenced application, at the time the invention claimed in the above-referenced application was conceived and filed at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
4. This Declaration is made in support of a showing under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.131 that the invention set forth in certain pending claims in the above-referenced patent application occurred prior to the effective filing date of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0084664 (the "'664 Publication"), i.e., prior to October 24, 2000.
5. RBW is a company that designs and manufactures slide-out mechanism and frameworks for use on recreational vehicles.

6. I have over 10 years experience in the recreational vehicle industry and consider myself to be skilled in the art.
7. At least as early as February 4, 2000 I was aware that Raymond Blodgett, Jr. conceived for RBW the vehicle slide-out framework that is disclosed and claimed in the above-referenced application.
8. This slide-out framework included a first support rail being fixedly connected to a second support rail along longitudinally opposing sides of each rail at a connecting area.
9. On or about February 4, 2000, drawings showing the framework Mr. Blodgett conceived were forwarded, via fax, by myself to Ronald Tamura of the law firm of Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP for Mr. Tamura's use in preparing a patent application that included this framework. This fax was previously submitted with the Supplemental Declaration of Raymond Blodgett, Jr. dated July 27, 2005 as Exhibit 1 and is again attached to this Declaration as Exhibit 1. As can be seen, Exhibit 1 discloses the inventive framework which is claimed in the present Application.
10. As seen on pages 3 and 4 of Exhibit 1, one preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown having two elongated tubes connected along their longitudinal length to form a single frame member. At or around the time of the invention, the inventor, Mr. Blodgett, communicated to me that in this embodiment the connection was achieved by welding the two tubes together at or near the interface of the two tubes, forming a connecting area along at least a portion of the tube's length.
11. As seen in Exhibit 1, the two tubes are shown adjacent each other, contacting along their inner, lateral surfaces. Further, the gear rack is shown overlapping a surface of both tubes (see cross sectional view of page 3) and extending along the length of each tube (see bottom and side views of page 3). As someone having ordinary skill in the art, this arrangement shown in Exhibit 1 clearly

demonstrates that the two tubes are connected together along their longitudinal length by a connecting area. Without such a connection of the tubes, the gear rack would be unconnected to anything and would therefore fail to function. Additionally, since the two tubes are involved in pushing and pulling the substantial weight of the slide-out room, it is understood that a relatively strong connecting area is appropriate to function as desired in the industry.

12. Generally, welding involves joining materials by melting the work-pieces and adding a filler material to form a pool of molten material. That molten material (known in the art as a weld puddle) cools to form a joint area between the two work-pieces. Welding is known in the art to form a strong connection between the work-pieces.
13. Therefore, since welding was known in the art to form strong connections and the two tubes of the preferred embodiment of Exhibit 1 are understood to require a strong connection, one of ordinary skill in the art would have understood Exhibit 1 to include that at least one connecting area between the two tubes could be welded.
14. Another preferred embodiment was also contemplated at or around the time Exhibit 1 was transmitted and was included in the nonprovisional application (e.g., Figs. 10A-10C). This second preferred embodiment includes a larger connecting area between the two tubes comprising a solid third rail. The third rail is similarly welded between the first two rails, creating a larger connecting area.
15. In summary, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand the connecting area shown in Exhibit 1 to include a weld connection.

I am aware that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the present application or any patent issuing thereon. All statements made herein which are made of my own knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5/30/07, 2007


Larry Revelino
President of RBW Industries

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